

SHORTSTORY

By Segun Durowaiye
(08055356855)

Vengeance Of The Mob

By Segun Durowaiye

SOMETHING bizarre happened in Ijeshatedo, a Lagos suburb, which till this day sticks in the memory of residents of this peaceful community.

A strange, big and brown dog strayed into the locality and was panting breathlessly as if being chased from somewhere. No one had the slightest inkling that something gory or bloody was in the offing.

Nearby, a plump woman in her early 50s was busy cooking meal for her children. Suddenly, the panting dog strayed into the woman's house and went straight to the kitchen where she was cooking. In no time, the woman was face-to-face with the panting animal.

The heavy jaw of the dog was slobbering with insatiable thirst for blood. She stopped what she was doing and stared at the mysterious dog in front of her. She wanted to shout, but something far greater than her shut her mouth and made her immovable and dumb.

In a flash, the woman was wondering where the dog came from and who must have sent the strange animal to her. Before she could unravel the mystery, the dog pounced on her and tore at her flesh.

"Help! Help!! Help!!!" the woman screamed, as the raving, possessed dog threw itself at her, thus forcing her down on the hard floor of the kitchen.

No one must have heard her cry for help, since no one came to her rescue. The dog dug a big wound on the woman's neck. About two minutes later, the woman lay on the floor, stone dead.

The next moment, one of her children came out of the room to

see his mum, but what the little boy saw filled him with horror. "Heeeelp!" screamed the little boy.

He turned and was about taking to his heels when the blood-thirsty dog pounced on him too. All the while, the boy was wailing and shouting for help, as the crazy dog bit the poor boy on his right leg and was about pouncing on his neck when luckily, one of the neighbours came out of one of the rooms in the house and saw what was happening.

Instantly, the dog took to its heels. The man followed behind, shouting at the top of his voice, and in a jiffy, about seven able-bodied men in the neighbourhood joined in the chase.

The big dog was now heading towards Oshodi-Mile 2 Expressway. The next few minutes, the crowd had tripled, wielding cutlasses, knives, clubs and cudgels, asbestos and every dangerous weapon they could lay their hands on.

Words had quickly spread that the dog was a killer-dog that had murdered an innocent woman and bitten one of her children.

The enraged mob had increased close to 1000 in a few minutes time. The whole locality was thrown into confusion and in vengeful mood.

The rabid dog ran for its dear life, but the embittered crowd was hot on its chase and relentless in pursuit.

The stunned and dumbfounded neighbours were wondering if the dog would be caught and judgment meted out. Many objects were hurled at the fleeing dog, but it continued the great race for its dear life, panting and gasping as it ran like a bat from hell.